

REMARKS

Rejection under 35 USC §112

Claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

Accordingly claims 3 and 6 have been amended to change the terminology “ribbon-like” to “ribbon-shaped.”

Thus, the rejection has been overcome.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Tanda et al (Nature, Volume 417, Issue No. 6887 (23 May 2002), pages 397-398).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Tanda et al was published on 23 May 2002. The international application of this application was filed on May 20, 2003, which is the US filing date of this application. Thus, Tanda et al is not a publication which is more than one year prior to the filing date of the present application. Thus, Tanda et al is not a 35 USC §102(b) prior art reference.

Also, Tanda et al shows the authors of the article, Satoshi Tanda, Taku Tsuneta, Yoshitoshi Okajima, Kkatsuhiko Inagaki, Kazuhiko Yamaya and Noriyuki Hatakenaka, which are identical to the inventors of the present application. Therefore, Tanda et al is not a 35 USC §102(a) prior art reference, either.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No. 052249

Thus, Tanda et al is not the prior art and the rejection is inappropriate.

Therefore, the 35 USC §102 rejection should be withdrawn

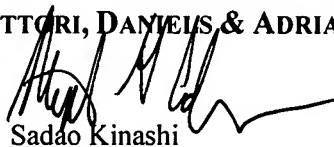
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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